STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

# Employment Bulletin

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## RHODE ISLAND EMPLOYMENT AND UNEMPLOYMENT - NOVEMBER 1991

Total Rhode Island nonagricultural wage and salary jobs declined by 600 to the November level of 437,100, as decreases in the Service Producing industries more than offset a slight increase in the Goods Producing sector. Compared to a year ago, the November figure represented a reduction of 14,500 jobs.

Employment in the Goods Producing sector rose slightly (+100) in the October - November period to 107,600, but decreased 8,700 from the year earlier level. Contract Construction jobs, at 14,800, posted a monthly increase of 100, but an annual downturn of 2,800. The number of factory jobs was unchanged from the October figure of 92,800; however, manufacturing employment was down 5,900 from the November 1990 level.

Manufacturers of Durable Goods reported a monthly decline of 300 jobs while those in Nondurable Goods registered a gain of 300. Monthly employment increases of 100 each were posted in Primary Metals, Fabricated Metals, Instruments, Food-Beverage, Apparel and Leather Products. In contrast, job declines of 200 each occurred in Transportation Equipment and Jewelry-Silverware, followed by job losses of 100 each in Lumber/ Furniture and Stone-Clay-Glass. The remaining factory segments - three in Durable Goods and six in Nondurable Goods - showed no change from October.

The November work week averaged 39.9 hours, down 1.3 hours from the previous month, but up 0.3 of an hour compared to a year ago. Production workers averaged $9.75 per hour in November, showing a gain of 7 cents from October and 10 cents from the November 1990 figure.

Employment among the Service Producing industries dropped to 329,500 in November - down 700 from the prior month and 5,800 from a year ago. Within this sector, the largest overall monthly decline (-800), occurred in Miscellaneous Services, primarily the result of seasonal decreases. Both Transportation & Public Utilities and Finance, Insurance & Real Estate recorded monthly job reductions of 100. Trade employment was unchanged from October to November, while Government jobs increased by 300. In the former industry, small increases in retail trade were offset by declines throughout the remaining segments. The upturn in the latter industry was primarily education-related.

Rhode Island's seasonally adjusted unemployment rate edged up one-tenth of a percentage point in November to an estimated 9.9 percent. The state's unadjusted rate decreased in the October-November period from 9.0 percent to 8.7 percent. Corresponding to this decline, the jobless total fell to 43,800 in November from the October level of 45,800. One year ago, the Rhode Island rates were estimated at 7.1 percent (adjusted) and 6.4 percent (unadjusted).

Nationally, the seasonally adjusted unemployment rate in November was unchanged from the month earlier estimate of 6.8 percent. The U.S. unadjusted rate rose two-tenths of a percentage point - from 6.4 percent in October to 6.6 percent in November. A year ago the unemployment rates for the nation stood at 5.9 percent (adjusted) and 5.8 percent (unadjusted).

## *1992 UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE TAXES*

*The ongoing recession and accompanying high unemployment rates in Rhode Island have resulted in a record payout of $232.4 million in net unemployment benefits during the twelve months ending September 30, 1991. Unemployment Insurance taxes paid by employers to finance these benefits totalled only $98.9 million for the same period.*

*As a result, reserves in the Employment Security Fund have fallen to $158.3 million as of September 30, a decrease of $111.5 million from September 30, 1990 when reserves stood at $269.8 million. Unemployment Insurance payments first began to exceed receipts from employer tax payments in 1990 when the state's unemployment rate began to rise.*

*The large drop in Employment Security Fund reserves will cause Rhode Island employers to pay higher unemployment insurance taxes in 1992. The tax schedule to be in effect for each year is determined by the financial condition of the Employment Security Fund. This is measured by the Reserve Ratio of the Fund as of September 30 of the preceding year.*

*The Fund reserve balance on September 30, 1991, totalled $158,289,450 which translates into a Reserve Ratio equal to 3.95% of the $4,009,792,881 in average annual taxable wages paid by Rhode Island employers during the three years ending June 30, 1991. Because this reserve ratio is less than 5.0% it will trigger in Tax Schedule I which contains rates ranging from 2.2% to 8.3%.*

*Tax Schedule I is the highest of the nine schedules and 1992 will be the first year since 1987 that this Schedule I will apply.*

*The payroll tax for new employers - those who have not been covered by the Employment Security Act for three full experience years - will be 2.5% in 1992.*

*Rhode Island employers will be notified of their individual tax rates prior to April 1, 1992. The wage base on which Employment Security taxes will be paid during the 1992 tax year is $15,200.*

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Employment and unemployment statistics contained in this report were compiled by THE DEPT. OF EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING in cooperation with the BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, U.S. DEPT. OF LABOR. For additional information contact LABOR MARKET INFORMATION at 277-3706. TDD Voice: 277-3718.

## RHODE ISLAND

Labor Force Statistics
*(In Thousands)*

| | Nov. 1991 | Oct.* 1991 | Nov.* 1990 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Civilian Labor Force | 506.2 | 508.1 | 512.1 |
| Resident Employment | 462.5 | 462.3 | 479.5 |
| Unemployment | 43.8 | 45.8 | 32.6 |
| Rate (Unadjusted) | 8.7 | 9.0 | 6.4 |
| Seasonally Adjusted Rate | 9.9 | 9.8 | 7.1 |

*Revised

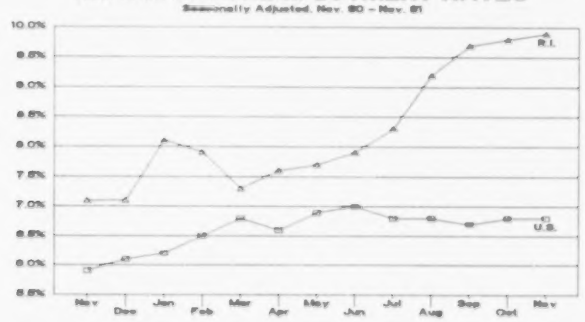
## UNITED STATES

Labor Force Statistics
*(In Thousands)*

| | Nov. 1991 | Oct. 1991 | Nov. 1990 |
|---|---|---|---|
| Civilian Labor Force | 125,396 | 125,568 | 124,821 |
| Resident Employment | 117,110 | 117,555 | 117,611 |
| Unemployment | 8,286 | 8,013 | 7,211 |
| Rate (Unadjusted) | 6.6 | 6.4 | 5.8 |
| Seasonally Adjusted Rate | 6.8 | 6.8 | 5.9 |

## R.I. and U.S. UNEMPLOYMENT RATES

Seasonally Adjusted, Nov. 90 – Nov. 91




## TOTAL ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT IN RHODE ISLAND

| | EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands) Nov. 1991 | Oct. 1991 | Nov. 1990 | NET CHANGE FROM Oct. 1991 | Nov. 1990 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOTAL EMPLOYMENT | 437.1 | 437.7 | 451.6 | - 600 | - 14500 |
| GOODS PRODUCING | 107.6 | 107.5 | 116.3 | + 100 | - 8700 |
| CONTRACT CONSTRUCTION | 14.8 | 14.7 | 17.6 | + 100 | - 2800 |
| MANUFACTURING | 92.8 | 92.8 | 98.7 | - | - 5900 |
| SERVICE PRODUCING | 329.5 | 330.2 | 335.3 | - 700 | - 5800 |
| TRANS. & PUBLIC UTILITIES | 15.4 | 15.5 | 15.8 | - 100 | - 400 |
| TRADE (Wholesale & Retail) | 93.1 | 93.1 | 97.2 | - | - 4100 |
| FINANCE, INS. & REAL ESTATE | 25.8 | 25.9 | 27.2 | - 100 | - 1400 |
| SERVICE (Miscellaneous) | 130.3 | 131.1 | 129.9 | - 800 | + 400 |
| GOVERNMENT | 64.9 | 64.6 | 65.2 | + 300 | - 300 |

## ESTABLISHMENT EMPLOYMENT, EARNINGS AND HOURS IN MANUFACTURING INDUSTRIES IN R.I.

### NOVEMBER 1991

| | EMPLOYMENT (In Thousands) | PRODUCTION-WORKER AVERAGES Weekly Earnings | Weekly Hours | Hourly Earnings |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| ALL MANUFACTURING | 92.8 | 389.03 | 39.9 | 9.75 |
| DURABLE MFG. | 61.6 | 392.35 | 40.2 | 9.76 |
| LUMBER/FURNITURE | 2.3 | 389.41 | 34.8 | 11.19 |
| STONE-CLAY-GLASS | 1.2 | 449.84 | 40.2 | 11.19 |
| PRIMARY METALS | 3.8 | 430.08 | 42.0 | 10.24 |
| FABRICATED METALS | 7.2 | 376.00 | 40.3 | 9.33 |
| NONELECTRIC MACH. | 5.0 | 525.71 | 43.7 | 12.03 |
| ELECTRICAL MACH. | 4.6 | 381.38 | 38.1 | 10.01 |
| TRANS. EQUIPMENT | 6.2 | 476.19 | 36.8 | 12.94 |
| INSTRUMENTS | 6.3 | 465.52 | 44.0 | 10.58 |
| JEWELRY-SILVERWARE | 19.5 | 314.41 | 39.4 | 7.98 |
| MISCELLANEOUS MFG. | 5.5 | 402.48 | 43.0 | 9.36 |
| NONDURABLE MFG. | 31.2 | 383.94 | 39.5 | 9.72 |
| FOOD-BEVERAGE | 2.9 | 364.25 | 36.1 | 10.09 |
| TEXTILES | 8.3 | 361.09 | 41.6 | 8.68 |
| APPAREL | 1.6 | 233.02 | 33.1 | 7.04 |
| PAPER PRODUCTS | 1.9 | 407.04 | 42.4 | 9.60 |
| PRINTING-PUBLISHING | 5.7 | 466.62 | 36.8 | 12.68 |
| CHEMICAL PRODUCTS | 2.9 | 478.38 | 42.0 | 11.39 |
| RUBBER PRODUCTS | 0.7 | 417.35 | 39.9 | 10.46 |
| PLASTICS PRODUCTS | 5.3 | 422.01 | 39.7 | 10.63 |
| LEATHER PRODUCTS | 1.9 | 257.18 | 38.5 | 6.68 |

Farmers, Self-employed, Domestic and Armed Services personnel are excluded from the Establishment Employment figures. Current month figures are PRELIMINARY. Prior month and year figures are REVISED.